Torture of Chakma Community in Bangladesh

667. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that Chakma Community Personnels have approached the International Human Rights protection forum against the tortures by Bangladesh Security Forces on these tribals in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to protect them from the torture and have also taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have been in touch with the Bangladesh Government ever since the influx of Chakma refugees into India from Bangladesh started in April, 1986. The refugees have been unwilling to return to Bangladesh as they fear for their safety. Government have been trying to persuade the Bangladesh Government to take the necessary action to create normal conditions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts which would give the refugee, the confidence to return.

(c) Does not arise.

Expert Committee to certify airworthiness of planes

668. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Committee of Experts to review all its provisions relating to grant of certificates of airworthiness to planes flying in the country as well as issuing of licences to pilots to make regulations more stringent and in keeping with changes in technology;

(b) if so, what are the names of personnel of the Committee; and

(c) by when the Committee would submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Starting of IIT in Assam

669. DR. NAGEN SAKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 991 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 1988 and state:

(a) when the establishment of one IIT in Assam was declared;

(b) whether Government of Assam has allotted necessary land for the same;

(c) what are the reasons for delay to start the Institute; and

(d) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) August 1985.

(b) Necessary land for the establishment of the IIT has been identified and is being acquired by the Government of Assam

(c) and (d) Necessary planning and preparatory work in connection with the establishment of the IIT is in progress. Such a process naturally takes time. The Institute will start after necessary formalities including legislation have been completed.